

## **UPDATE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**KEEC Council Meeting  
Agenda Item F-1  
November 6, 2019**

### **NAAEE Conference**

- B. Bennett met with the Natural Start Alliance, NAAEE, and KAEE to discuss the path forward for early childhood EE certification in Kentucky. B. Bennett believes that this will be a 2-3 year process at minimum, so projected expenditures in the next biennium will likely not exceed \$10,000.
- B. Bennett facilitated a day-long workshop on accreditation for higher education EE programs as a pre-conference event. He was also involved in presenting 3 other sessions: Conversation on Higher Education Accreditation, Updated and Revised K-12 EE Guidelines for Excellence, and AmeriCorps: Expanding Environmental Literacy through National Service (with Ashley Mike and Ashley Hoffman).
- W. Bullock served as the volunteer coordinator for the conference and worked to make volunteer opportunities available to Kentuckians. Nearly half of the volunteers were from Kentucky, including a large number of EELCorps members and alumni.
- B. Bennett and W. Bullock attended the session on NAAEE's new process for accreditation. The main takeaways for KEEC are that the application cost for re-accreditation has been reduced from \$2000 to \$150, and the documentation requirements have been drastically reduced. KEEC will apply online for re-accreditation in 2020.

### **Other Outreach**

- Governor's Conference, September 20: W. Bullock exhibited on behalf of KEEC. The exhibit area was lightly frequented, but he was able to spend time promoting KEEC's work with other exhibitors.
- Children's Environmental Health Summit, October 9-10: B. Bennett exhibited on behalf of KEEC, which was a \$500 sponsor of the event. He made connections with public health professionals and promoted EELCorps and Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools with conference attendees.
- Ohio River Recreation Trail Meeting, October 23: There is a proposal to develop a trail along the Ohio River, with connecting ground trails. B. Bennett attended a meeting of the steering committee, which was also attended by a wide variety of agencies and organizations, including the National Park Service and people from Ohio and Indiana. He offered to help with any environmental education aspects of the project, including the possibility of AmeriCorps members serving at any EE centers along the trail. Three centers already exist along the trail, and two more are proposed.

### **PEEC Course**

- This year's course has 23 participants, of which 7 are members of EELCorps.
- Workshop 1 was held at Maywoods September 27-28.
- Switching to 2-day workshops and moving away from state parks has significantly reduced the lodging costs of the course.
- KEEC recognized 14 new Master Environmental Educators at KAEE's annual meeting and awards luncheon on October 29 at McConnell Springs. Ashley Mike was recognized by KAEE as the "Rising Star" in EE. KEEC was the event's sponsor.